highway is a 4-lane divided carriageway with properly designed curves and road junctions, proper road signs and markings, cattle crossings, trucks and bus lay byes etc. and therefore, inherently safe. In addition, a number of other safety measures have been taken such as highway patrolling, ambulance and crane services, etc. The road surface is good and road lighting is not provided on highways because vehicles move under their own lights.

Damage to Highways in Orissa due to floods

2722. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the National Highways in Orissa have been damaged due to rains and floods;

(b) if so, the steps taken to verify poor quality of construction and the action to be initiated against the contractors; and

(c) by when these NHs would be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir. National Highways 200,201,215,6,23,42,5 and 5A were affected in some stretches by recent incessant heavy rains and floods.

(b) Damages have occurred due to heavy rains and floods. Therefore initiating action against contractors does not arise.

(c) Immediate restoration works have been completed.

National Highways Development Projects

2723. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 60,000 crore Highway Development Project is being funded through the traditional combination of budgetary support, multilateral assistance, allocation from the cess pool and private participation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several options have been kept open for private investors to spur investment in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details of the Highways Projects undergoing and proposed to be undertaken for execution by attracting private investment and by budgetary support. Separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Government has undertaken National Highway Development Project (NHDP) estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crore